GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
FARMING COMMUNITY
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any agencies for plant virus diagnosis and quality control for the benefit of farming community;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location wise;

(c) the potential demand for planting material of agricultural, horticulture, floriculture per year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for commercialization of plant tissue culture globally?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology has set up a National facility forvirus diagnosis and quality control of Tissue Culture raised planting material as a multi- institutional network project to ensure availability of virus free and high quality tested tissue culture plants for the benefit of farming community. The main centre is located at IndianAgricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi with five satellite centres at Institute ofHimalayan Bioresources Technology (IHBT), Palampur; Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore; National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune; Tata EnergyResearch Institute (TERI), New Delhi and Southern Petro & Industrial Chemicals (SPIC) Science Foundation, Chennai.

(c): Tissue culture is a developing technology in the field of agriculture, horticulture and floriculture. The potential demand is likely to increase.

(d): The Department of Biotechnology is making concerted efforts for promotingcommercialization of plant tissue culture. Two Micropropagation Technology Parks have been established which act as an interface between the academia and industry. The Micropropagation Technology Parks also serve as an effective platform for transfer of proven technologies to the industry and provide consultancy for setting up of units on turn key basis. Training is an important component of the activity. The National Facility forVirus Diagnosis and Quality Control also aims at benefiting the industry through certification of the planting material which is produced.